



A Message from the Department of Environmental Quality's
Drinking Water Protection Team



How to Protect Your Drinking Water in Your Business

Did you know that approximately two-thirds of Louisiana residents get their drinking water from ground water, while one-third of Louisiana residents get their drinking water from surface water sources? Ground water comes from aquifers, underground formations of sand and gravel that contain water. Examples of surface water sources are lakes, streams, or rivers. Our drinking water can become contaminated when substances that we use everyday run off, or flow, into our surface water sources, or seep into the ground and into our aquifers. What are some of these substances?

- Gasoline
- Antifreeze
- Paint
- Dry cleaning agents
- Household cleaners
- Printing ink
- Fertilizers
- Pesticides
- Solvents

These substances are used daily in our community's businesses. Help us prevent drinking water contamination. Listed below are some simple steps you can use in your business to protect your drinking water everyday:

- Use chemicals as per directions and dispose of chemicals properly.
- Do not dump solvents, used oil, or toxic chemicals down storm drains. Seal floor drains.
- Do not dump waste that contains organic chemicals or metals into septic system. These must be recycled.
- Store chemicals in covered areas and in areas with impervious surfaces.
- Make sure all chemicals and other materials are labeled and are stored in proper containers. Containers should not be corroded or leaking and should have covers.
- Monitor use of all raw materials and wastes.
- Use measures to prevent overflow of tanks.
- Place drip pans where chemicals are stored or where they might leak, for example, under machinery. Then recycle or dispose of material properly.
- If a liquid chemical spills, clean it up with a dry absorbent. Do not wash down drain.

Gas stations and auto/body repair shops:

- Properly abandon all underground storage tanks.
- Use non-chlorinated compounds for parts cleaning.
- Use spring loaded funnels or pumps to dispense and collect fluids such as antifreeze, solvents and used oil.
- Recycle antifreeze, solvents and used oil.
- Use a filter on parts cleaner to extend the life of the solvent.
- Keep hazardous and non-hazardous wastes separate.
- Maintain accurate inventory of materials and disposal records.
- Remove parts slowly from solvent to prevent spills.

"Protect Your Water One Drop At A Time"

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